DC
#39
SEP '09
$2.50 us
CN
CARTOON NETWORK
ACTION PACK!
THE SECRET SATURDAYS
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
CODENAME: KIDS NEXT DOOR
SAMURAI JACK
DIRECT SALES
dckids.com

THE CAVE of the CACUS

writer//JOHN ROZUM
penciller//WILL SWEENY
inker//MIKE MANLEY
colorist//HEROIC AGE
letterer//TRAVIS LANHAM
editor//SEAN RYAN

THE SECRET SATURDAYS
created by JAY STEPHENS

NOTICE THE THREE SETS OF PUNCTURE WOUNDS HERE AND THE DESICCATED STATE OF THE CARCASS.
SOMETHING SUCKED OUT ALL THE FLUIDS.
EW.
SHURP

BAH!
BA-AH!
BAH!
BEA-
AH-
AH!
DID EVERYONE ELSE SEE THAT?
YOU KNOW I'M NOT SQUEAMISH BY NATURE, BUT ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WITH THE SUN BEHIND IT, I HOPE THAT I REALLY DIDN'T SEE WHAT I THINK I DID.
WHOAH.
COME ON, LET'S GO.

THERE'S NO SIGN OF IT.
WHO LIVES IN THAT HUT?
IT BELONGED TO A GOATHERD. HE WAS SOMETHING OF A HERMIT, BUT HE MUST HAVE HAD MONEY BECAUSE HE WAS CONSTANTLY REPLENISHING HIS HERD.

HIS HERD STARTED OUT LARGE, BUT KEPT DWINDLING NO MATTER HOW OFTEN HE RESTOCKED IT. EVERYONE ASSUMED HIS GOATS WERE DISEASED AND THEY KEPT AWAY FROM HIM AND HIS HERD TO PROTECT THEIR OWN ANIMALS.

CAN WE TALK TO HIM?
HE DIED ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO.
RIGHT BEFORE YOUR PROBLEM WITH THE LIVESTOCK STARTED.
WERE ANY OF HIS GOATS STILL ALIVE AFTER HE DIED?

A COUPLE. WE SENT SOMEONE UP TO COLLECT THEM, BUT THEY WERE GONE.
WE'D ASSUMED THEY WERE STOLEN, UNTIL THIS MESS STARTED.
ZON'S FOUND SOMETHING!

IT LOOKS LIKE A CAVE.

WAIT FOR US IN THE HUT...

"...WE'LL LET YOU KNOW WHAT WE FIND."
I WONDER IF THERE'S A CLUE IN HERE?
FREEZHEE!
CHECK OUT ALL THIS GOLD! I THINK MY ALLOWANCE JUST GOT AN UPGRADE.
I THINK I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THOSE GOATS.

LISTEN TO THIS.
IT'S A DIARY FROM 1878. MY ITALIAN'S NOT GREAT BUT IT SAYS SOMETHING LIKE "I AM THE CARETAKER OF THE CACUS. IN THE EVENT OF MY DEATH, WHOEVER FINDS THIS DIARY MUST CARRY ON..."
"...IN MY PLACE. THE CACUS WILL PROTECT THE REGION AS LONG AS IT IS KEPT FED. USE THE TREASURE IN THE CAVE TO PURCHASE LIVESTOCK FOR THIS PURPOSE."
YAHHHHHH!
I THINK WE SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE.
IN CASE YOU DIDN'T HEAR US SCREAMING, WE FOUND THE SHEEP, TOO.
DID THAT DIARY SAY *WHAT* THE CACUS IS?
I THINK WE *KNOW* WHAT IT IS.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. NOW. PLEASE.

I DON'T REMEMBER THIS BEING HERE WHEN WE CAME IN.
IT WASN'T. IT'S NOT KEEPING US HERE, EITHER.
STAND BACK, BOYS!
DREW! WAIT!
THE VIBRATIONS!
SLASH
OKAY. THAT'S GROSS.
THE CACUS, IT'S A HUNTING SPIDER.
THERE'S NO WAY TO OUTRUN IT.
I'M HAVING A HARD TIME CONNECTING.
ITS MIND'S PRETTY SIMPLE. I DON'T THINK IT WANTS TO HURT US. I THINK IT'S WONDERING IF WE BROUGHT FOOD.
IT'S ALWAYS HAD A HUMAN CARETAKER. THE MOST RECENT ONE WAS THE HERMIT THAT FED IT THE GOATS.
WHEN HE DIED, AND THE GOATS RAN OUT, NO ONE CAME TO FEED IT, SO THE CACUS WAS FORCED TO VENTURE OUTSIDE THE CAVE TO FIND ITS OWN FOOD.

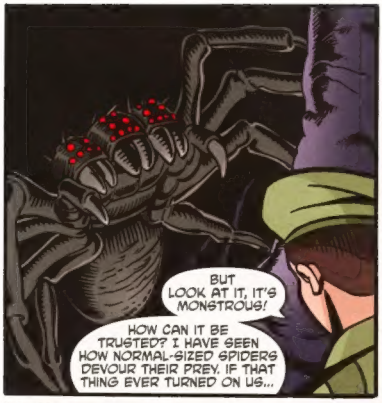
SOMETHING IT WILL NEVER DO AGAIN.

YOU MEAN YOU FOUND SOMEONE TO BE ITS CARETAKER?
NO. I MEAN I HAVE MEN SETTING UP EXPLOSIVES AT THE MOUTH OF THIS CAVE AS WE SPEAK.
WE'RE GOING TO SEAL THIS CAVE AND THAT MONSTROSITY WITHIN IT FOREVER.

BUT IT KEEPS THE AREA SAFE.
NO OTHER PREDATOR WILL VENTURE HERE WHILE THE CACUS IS AROUND.
WOLVES WE CAN HANDLE, BUT *THIS* ABOMINATION IS A PREDATOR WE CANNOT ABIDE.

THIS CAVE IS A TREASURE TROVE OF ANCIENT ROMAN ARTIFACTS.
DON'T FORGET, THE CRATES FULL OF GOLD!
GOLD?
WHERE? HOW MUCH GOLD ARE WE TALKING?

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY, BUT YOU COULD FILL A PRETTY BIG ROOM.
IT'S GOT TO BE ENOUGH TO KEEP THE CACUS IN LIVESTOCK FOR THE REST OF ITS LIFE, WITH PLENTY LEFT OVER FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS REGION AS WELL.


BUT LOOK AT IT, IT'S MONSTROUS!
HOW CAN IT BE TRUSTED? I HAVE SEEN HOW NORMAL-SIZED SPIDERS DEVOUR THEIR PREY. IF THAT THING EVER TURNED ON US...

BUT IT WON'T, NOT IF YOU TAKE CARE OF IT.
LOOK, I'M NOT THE BIGGEST FAN OF SPIDERS EITHER, BUT YOU MIGHT WANT TO READ THROUGH THESE JOURNALS.
THE CACUS HAS PROTECTED THIS REGION FROM FAR MORE THAN WOLVES OVER THE YEARS.

THE MOUNTAINS OF GOLD, THE PRICELESS ARTIFACTS, THOSE AREN'T YOUR TREASURE.
SHE IS.

YOU HAVE HELPED US IN THE PAST, SO WE WILL TRY THINGS YOUR WAY.
ALLESANDRO, GO TELL THE OTHERS TO DISASSEMBLE THE EXPLOSIVES.

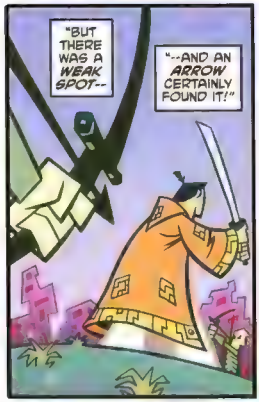
NOW TO SEE THE RICHES THAT WILL GO TO KEEPING OUR GUARDIAN FED.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO FEED IT FIRST.
A FINE SUGGESTION.

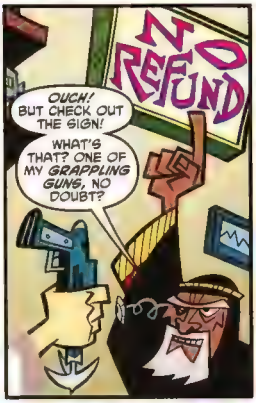
YOU OKAY, DREW?
ACTUALLY, YEAH. I'M GLAD THE CACUS TURNED OUT TO BE A BIG DISGUSTING SPIDER.
IT'S THE FIRST CRYPTID ZAK HASN'T TRIED TO TALK US INTO LETTING HIM KEEP.
END

NO REFUND!
WRITER: JIM ALEXANDER
ARTIST: ETHEN BEAVERS COLORIST: HEROIC AGE
LETTERER: TRAVIS LANHAM EDITOR: SEAN RYAN
SAMURAI JACK CREATED BY: GENNDY TARTAKOVSKY
HMM? BACK SO SOON, SAMURAI?
AH, YES, SHARP ARROW--
--WHICH I SEE FOR YOUR TROUBLES YOU GOT FULL SQUARE IN THE RUMP! THAT'S JUST GOT TO SMART!
NO REFUND
LOOK AT THE SIGN, BEFORE YOU SAY ANY MORE--
--JUST SO YOU KNOW.

AH, THE *FORCE FIELD CLOAK* YOU BOUGHT FROM ME NOT BUT A *WEEK* AGO.
NOW LET ME GUESS...

"...AT FIRST THE *CLOAK* DID ITS JOB ADMIRABLY.

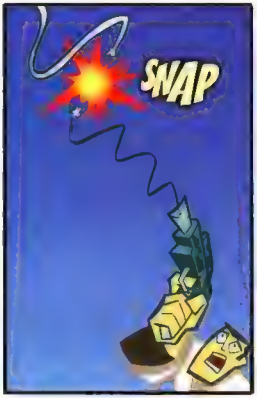

"BUT THERE WAS A *WEAK SPOT*--
"--AND AN *ARROW* CERTAINLY FOUND IT!"


NO REFUND
OUCH! BUT CHECK OUT THE SIGN!
WHAT'S THAT? ONE OF MY *GRAPPLING GUNS*, NO DOUBT?

"OK YOU COULD *SAY*... YOU WERE IN *NEED* OF A *QUICK* ESCAPE.

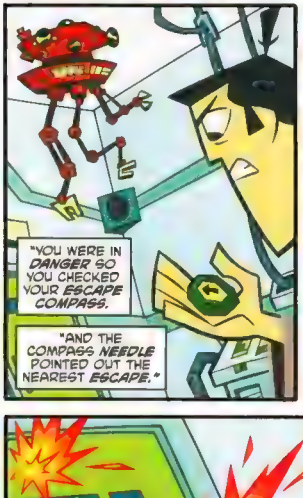
"AND A *QUICK* ESCAPE...

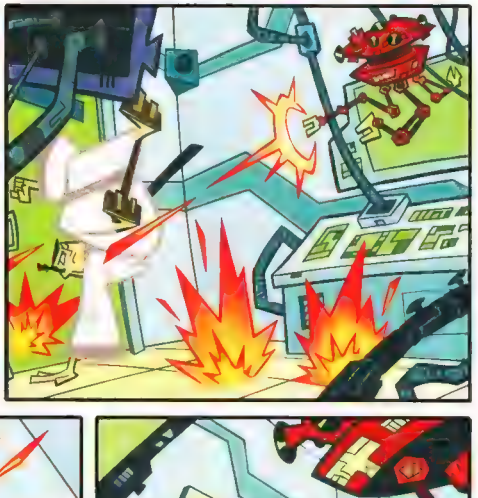
"...IS WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD."

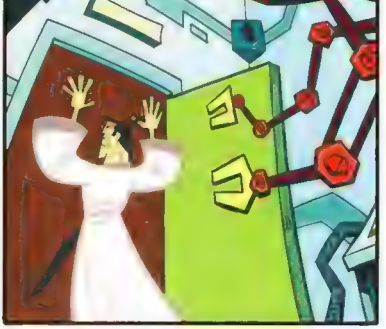

SNAP

VZZ-
GROWL

OH, THAT'S JUST HORRID. JUST TERRIBLE. BUT YOU CAN READ, CAN'T YOU?
HMM. AND I SEE THAT'S NOT ALL...
NO REFUND


"YOU WERE IN DANGER SO YOU CHECKED YOUR ESCAPE COMPASS.
"AND THE COMPASS NEEDLE POINTED OUT THE NEAREST ESCAPE."





EXCEPT THAT IT WASN'T AN ESCAPE YOU RAN INTO BUT A BRICK WALL!
I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR FACE. YOU ARE ANGRY, SAMURAI. IF I HAD A SHRED OF DECENCY TO MY NAME, I WOULD OF COURSE GIVE YOU YOUR MONEY BACK.
BUT WILL I?
NOOOOOO... NO REFUND!
KRASSSH!
AHOY ME HEARTIES! THERE BE BOUNTY FIT FOR THE PLUNDERING! YAAR!
CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOUR SWORD WORKS PERFECTLY WELL. DID I SELL IT TO YOU?
NO.

SHIVER ME METAL TIMBERS! THAT LANDLUBBER SAMURAI IS SURE TOUGH TO SHOOT!

SMAGGOT YE SCURVY DOG!
EEH! HOW BE I OFFENDING YE, CAPTAIN?!

YE WASTE DALLOBLE ENERGY PLAZMA FIRING FROM YAR OWN WEAPON--
--WHEN YE COULD BE USING SOMETHING FROM THAT BIG PILE THERE!
ZAPPP!

WE HEAR YE, CAPTAIN!

WE'LL BLOW THAT SAMURAI TO SMITHEREENS!
HEH.

BOOM

aarr... backfire...

YE SWARTHY DOG! I'LL SORT YE OUT WITH THIS MECHANICAL AXE!
AND I BE WEARING THIS FORCE FIELD CLOAK HANDILY PLACED ON YONDER COUNTER. YHAH!

eh?

WEAK SPOT.

YOU'VE SAVED ME, SAMURAI, AND MY BELOVED TRADING POST! HOW CAN I EVER REPAY YOU?

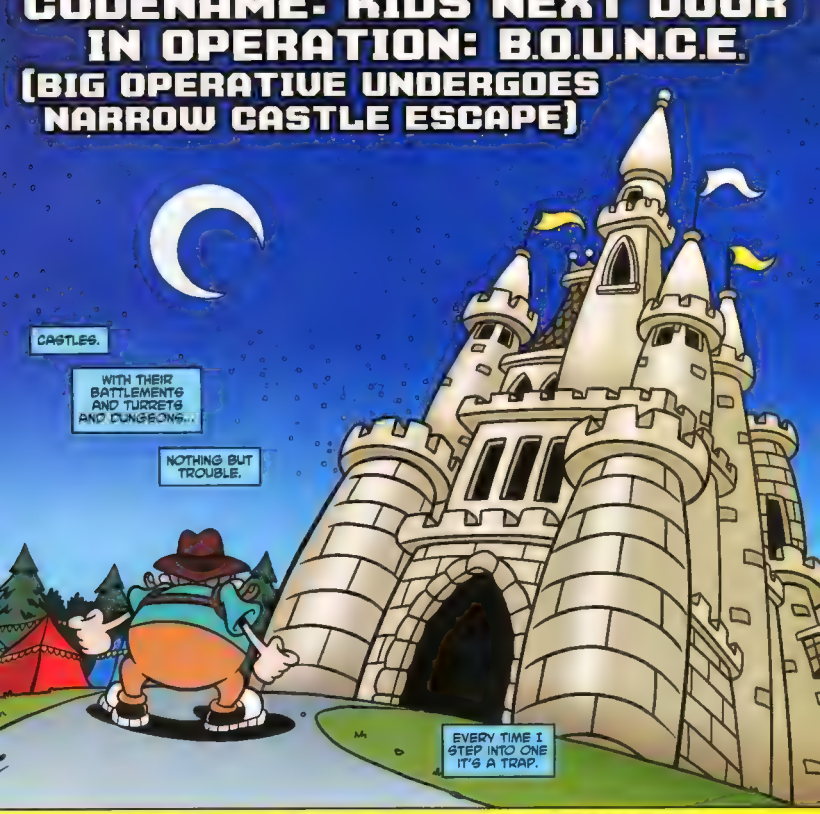
A REFUND... PERHAPS?
NAH.
END

WARNING! YOU ARE READING THE SOOPER CLASSIFIED MISSION FILES OF THE KIDS NEXT DOOR. A TEAM OF FIVE EXCEPTIONAL 10-YEAR-OLDS DEDICATED TO FIGHTING THE TYRANNY OF ADULTS WHEREVER IT REARS ITS WRINKLY HEAD! THE SECRET'S OUT! ARE YOU IN?

CODENAME: KIDS NEXT DOOR

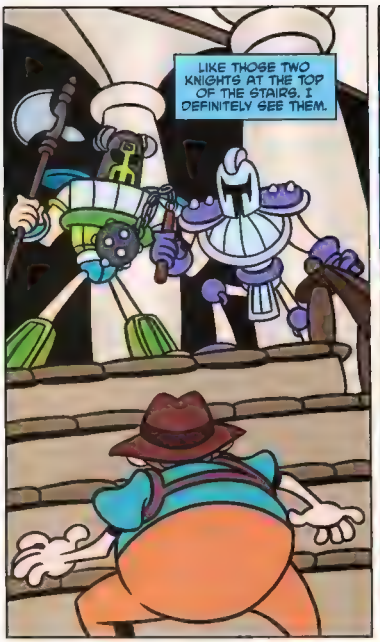
IN OPERATION: B.O.U.N.C.E.

(BIG OPERATIVE UNDERGOES NARROW CASTLE ESCAPE)

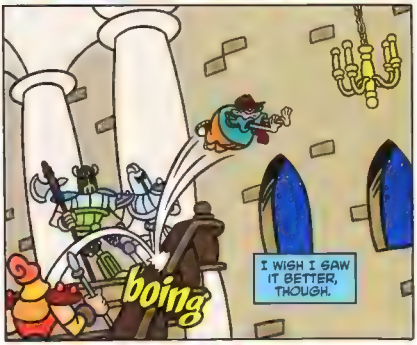


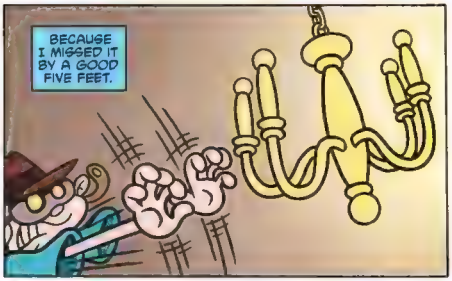
REFLECTIVE WRITER·*MR. WARBURTON* PRIVATE EYE PENCILLER·*MAURICE FONTENOT*
INVESTIGATIVE INKER·*THE IGUANA* LURKING LETTERER·*TRAVIS LANHAM* CLUE-SEEKIN' COLORIST·*HEROIC AGE*
HEAD DETECTIVE·*SEAN RYAN* *CODENAME: KIDS NEXT DOOR* CREATED BY *MR. WARBURTON*

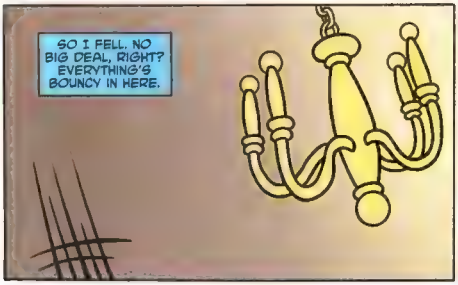
...AND EVEN THOUGH I'M 12 YEARS OLD...
BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH I'M A DETECTIVE...
boing-boinga-boing!
...I STILL CAN'T RESIST A BOUNCY CASTLE.
NOT TO MENTION THE WORLD'S BIGGEST BOUNCY CASTLE.
boinga-boinga-booooing!
boinga-boinga
SO WHO, MIGHT YOU ASK, WOULD SET A TRAP FOR ME IN THIS BOUNTIFUL BUILDING OF BOUNCINESS?
I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA.
boinga-boinga
BECAUSE, LIKE I SAID--I'M A DETECTIVE. I SEE THINGS.

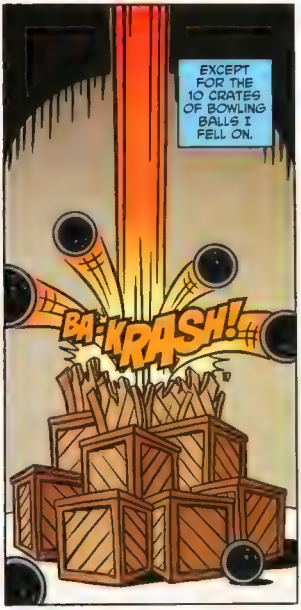

LIKE THOSE TWO KNIGHTS AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS. I DEFINITELY SEE THEM.

I ALSO SEE THAT MY ONLY ESCAPE IS THAT INFLATABLE CHANDELIER.


boing
I WISH I SAW IT BETTER, THOUGH.

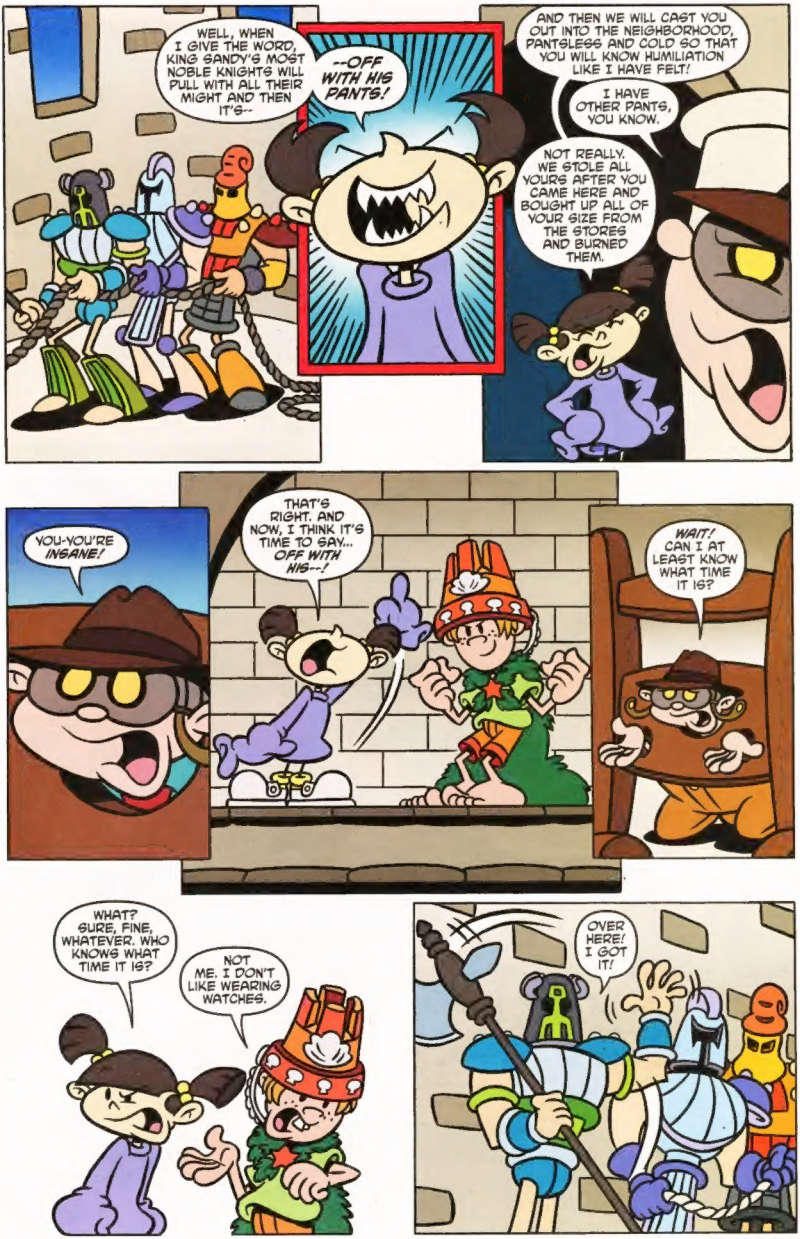

BECAUSE I MISSED IT BY A GOOD FIVE FEET.

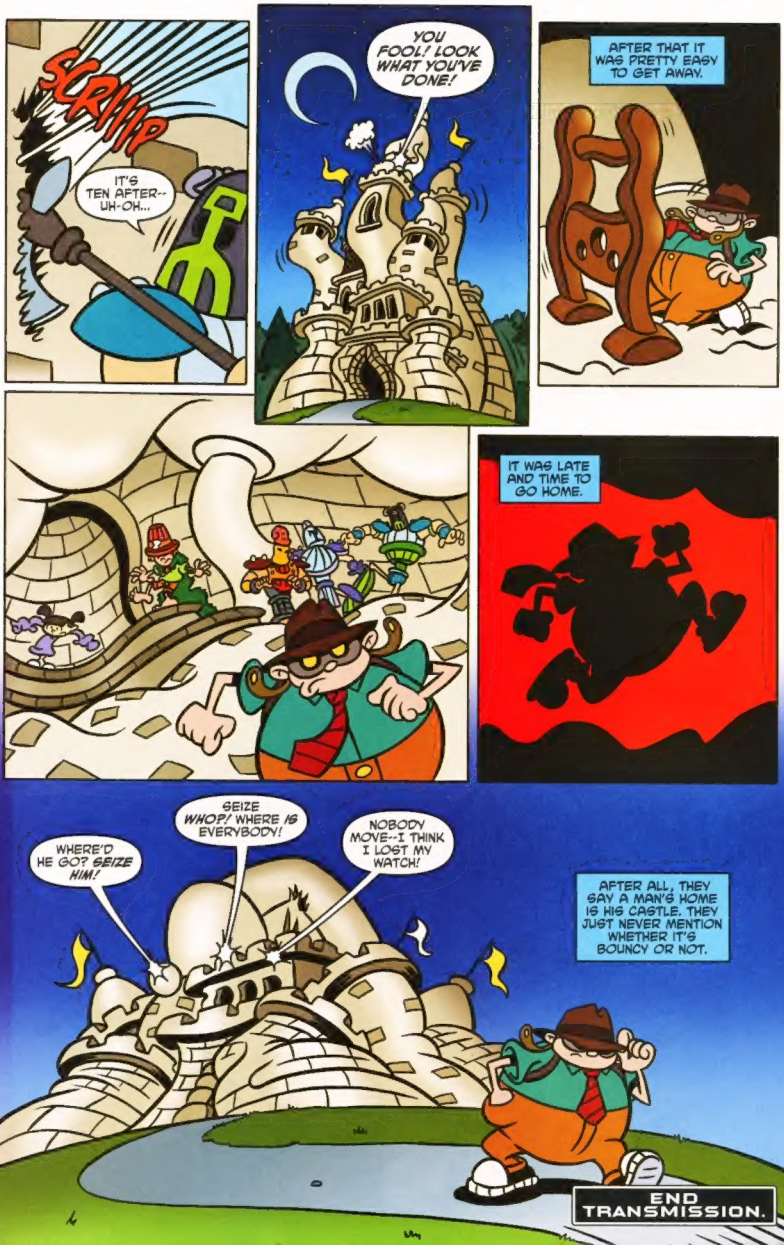

SO I FELL. NO BIG DEAL, RIGHT? EVERYTHING'S BOUNCY IN HERE.


EXCEPT FOR THE 10 CRATES OF BOWLING BALLS I FELL ON.
BA-KRASH!

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW LONG I WAS OUT, BUT WHEN I WOKE UP, I FELT LIKE A COUPLE OF GRADE SCHOOL KIDS WERE BELTING OUT BAD MOVIE SOUNDTRACKS ON MIS-TUNED ACCORDIONS IN MY HEAD.
I WAS RIGHT.
OH, I SEE OUR RENDITION OF "THE THEME FROM VIOLENCE: THE MOVIE" HAS AWOKEN YOU, NUMBUH TWO! WHAT SHALL WE PLAY HIM NEXT, MY MOST BEAUTIFUL QUEEN?
A BUH-BILLION TIMES WORSE FOR THE SO-CALLED DETECTIVE WHO GOT ME GROUNDED FOR LIFE!
WHY ARE YA BLAMING ME? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STABBED HER SISTER'S STUFFED ANIMAL WITH A FORK. NOT TO MENTION LATER TURNING IT INTO A FRANKENSTEIN-LIKE SPANK MONSTER.
OH, I HAVE MUCH WORSE IN STORE FOR HIM THAN BAD SONGS, MY MOST HANDSOME KIND SANDY!
SILENCE!
I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE, AND I WILL HAVE IT NOW!
PERHAPS YOU'VE NOTICED THE ROPE TIED AROUND YOUR ANKLES?

GET READY! HERE COMES A
HEE HEE!
SUPER FRIENDS SUPER STUMPER
BY SHOLLY FISCH & TY TEMPLETON
THIS WORD IS SOMETHING YOU NEED AT THE BEACH.
1
UH OH! MISTER MXYZPTLK HAS PULLED ONE OF HIS MAGICAL PRANKS! HE MADE THESE COMMON WORDS AND PHRASES COME TO LIFE!
CAN YOU FIGURE OUT THE WORDS, AND BREAK THE MAGIC SPELL?
BUTTERFLY
THIS IS SOMETHING YOU'LL FIND AT A POOL.
CANNONBALL!
2
HERE'S SOMETHING YOU'D FIND IN A RING.
JAB JAB
3
AND THIS ONE'S PART OF A BASEBALL TEAM.
STOP
DON'T CALL ME PEE-WEE!
4
YOU MIGHT PUT YOUR PET IN ONE OF THESE.
HERE BOY!
WOOF!
5
HOW MANY DID YOU GET? TURN THE PAGE OVER TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.
ANSWERS: 1. BATHING SUIT. 2. DIVING BOARD. 3. BOXING GLOVE. 4. SHORTSTOP. 5. DOGHOUSE.
FOR MORE ADVENTURES, PUZZLES, AND FUN, READ
DC SUPER FRIENDS
ON SALE EVERY MONTH!


WELL, WHEN I GIVE THE WORD, KING SANDY'S MOST NOBLE KNIGHTS WILL PULL WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT AND THEN IT'S--
--OFF WITH HIS PANTS!
AND THEN WE WILL CAST YOU OUT INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD, PANTSLESS AND COLD SO THAT YOU WILL KNOW HUMILIATION LIKE I HAVE FELT!
I HAVE OTHER PANTS, YOU KNOW.
NOT REALLY. WE STOLE ALL YOURS AFTER YOU CAME HERE AND BOUGHT UP ALL OF YOUR SIZE FROM THE STORES AND BURNED THEM.
YOU-YOU'RE INSANE!
THAT'S RIGHT. AND NOW, I THINK IT'S TIME TO SAY... OFF WITH HIS--!
WAIT! CAN I AT LEAST KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
WHAT? SURE, FINE, WHATEVER. WHO KNOWS WHAT TIME IT IS?
NOT ME. I DON'T LIKE WEARING WATCHES.
OVER HERE! I GOT IT!


SCRIIIP
IT'S TEN AFTER-- UH-OH...
YOU FOOL! LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
AFTER THAT IT WAS PRETTY EASY TO GET AWAY.
IT WAS LATE AND TIME TO GO HOME.
WHERE'D HE GO? SEIZE HIM!
SEIZE WHOP! WHERE IS EVERYBODY!
NOBODY MOVE--I THINK I LOST MY WATCH!
AFTER ALL, THEY SAY A MAN'S HOME IS HIS CASTLE. THEY JUST NEVER MENTION WHETHER IT'S BOUNCY OR NOT.
END TRANSMISSION.

Send your letters today:

JOHNNY DC SAYS: LET THE MAIL BEGIN!

THE SECRET SATURDAYS

The search is over! CARTOON NETWORK is bringing you brand new Mattel toys featuring THE SECRET SATURDAYS. It'll definitely be action time when you get your hands on Zak's Claw, Drew's Tibetan Fire Sword, a super cool Cryptipedia and tons of action figures. Now get out there and create your own adventures!

DRAWING BY COLEMAN JOSEPH, FROM PENN.

Dear Johnny DC,

I am Ansley Boy Kin and I wanted to send in a picture of Zak Saturday.

Ansley Boy Kin, age 8
Atlanta, Georgia

I'm glad you did (and so is Zak)!
— Johnny DC

DRAWING BY ANSLEY BOY KIN, AGE 8

Dear Johnny DC,

Ben 10 is cool and I am a big fan.

Daniel Suschak, age 8
Morgantown, West Virginia

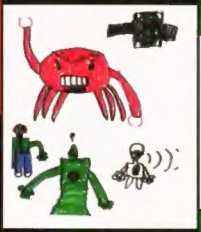
DRAWING BY DANIEL SUSCHAK

Dear Johnny DC,

My favorite BEN 10: ALIEN FORCE character is Swampfire.

Izeyah Mendez, age 10
El Paso, Texas

DRAWING BY IZEYAH MENDEZ



DRAWING BY JOHNNY OSIPOW, AGE 6

Dear Johnny DC,

I like Swampfire. I think he's cool because he can control plants and can shoot fire. I like in issue #27 when Kevin's car was stolen by the Forever Knights and Ben had to go Humongousaur.

Here (below) is a guy named Slammer.

Michael, age 9
Syracuse, New York

You are 'way too modest. Excuse me while I shout, "PRESENTING, FOR THE FIRST TIME ANYWHERE, MICHAEL FROM SYRACUSE'S ORIGINAL MONSTER/HERO, SLAMMER!!!!" (Isn't that better?)
— Johnny DC

DRAWING BY JOHN MICHAEL

DRAWING BY MICHAEL

Dear Johnny DC,

I love your comics with BEN 10. I read them all the time. My favorite alien is Alien X. My second favorite is Spidermonkey, and my third is Goop. I drew Alien X, since he's my favorite.

John Michael, age 8
Hardage Farm, Georgia

NEXT MONTH: The Secret Saturdays get to the bottom of a mystery involving a strange species of cryptid called Flying Rods! Meanwhile, Samurai Jack is having trouble with technology! And the Kids Next Door suffer from gender confusion!

Write to Johnny DC! JOHNNY DC-- CARTOON NETWORK ACTION PACK c/o DC COMICS 1700 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10019

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JOHNNY DC's

DC IN DEMAND!

8 COOL COMICS FOR A HOT JULY 4!

SUPER FRIENDS #17
The Super Friends celebrate Independence Day with a time-travel trek to meet the Founding Fathers!

CARTOON NETWORK BLOCK PARTY #59
Spectacular last issue with new stories from Camp Lazlo, the Powerpuff Girls, and Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends!

LOONEY TUNES #176
Join the crew for all-out, fast-paced hilarity! Feel the need for speed in "Wacing Wascals!" Plus other classics!

BATMAN: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #7
Here comes the Doom Patrol, and they want Batman to help them out with the last villain you'd expect!

CARTOON NETWORK ACTION PACK #39
The Secret Saturdays discover a strange and ancient relationship between a cryptid and an Italian village!

TINY TITANS #18
School's over, but the Tiny Titans can't leave yet – they're stuck in detention! How did that happen?

SCOOBY-DOO #146
Come celebrate this Fourth of July with Scooby, the gang and…a monster made of fireworks?!

BILLY BATSON AND THE MAGIC OF SHAZAM #6
It's the magic of Shazam versus the magic of King Kull! Winner take all!

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